TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, December 15, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 10 totaled an estimated 20.0 billion ton-miles, up 1.7 percent from the 19.7 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 49 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 944.2 billion ton-miles carried, up 5.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended December 10 totaled 453,137, up 2.0 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and up 1.2 percent from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 7.5 percent in the West but down 2.7 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 11 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of metallic ores increased by 7,057 cars (42.2 percent) and motor vehicles and equipment loadings were up 2,628 cars (12.2 percent). Grain decreased by 2,070 cars (6.5 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended December 3 totaled 111,991 trailers and/or containers, down 5.0 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 48 weeks of the year was 5,279,361 trailers and/or containers, up 3.8 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/10/88:

	Loadings in Week ended December 10, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,654	D	2,070	6.5	I	776	2.7
Other farm products	4,471	D	689	13.4	I	542	13.8
Metallic ores	23,780	I	7,057	42.2	I	2,264	10.5
Coal	132,530	D	1,919	1.4	I	3,767	2.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,728	I	865	5.8	I	187	1.2
Nonmetallic minerals	9,524	I	180	1.9	D	959	9.1
Grain mill products	11,333	D	154	1.3	D	97	0.8
Food and kindred products	11,372	D	128	1.1	D	304	2.6
Primary forest products	10,559	D	1,160	9.9	I	413	4.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,048	D	864	10.9	D	310	4.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,314	D	641	5.4	D	1,390	10.9
Chemicals and allied products	28,750	I	900	3.2	D	2,058	6.7
Petroleum products	5,618	I	443	8.6	I	69	1.2
Stone, clay and glass products	11,112	I	587	5.6	D	138	1.2
Coke	5,687	I	63	1.1	D	179	3.1
Metals and products	9,255	D	899	8.9	D	834	8.3
Motor vehicles and equipment	24,248	I	2,628	12.2	I	518	2.2
Waste and scrap materials	9,784	D	340	3.4	I	272	2.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,130	D	454	17.6	I	123	6.1
All other carloads	89,240	I	5,604	6.7	I	2,855	3.3
Total Cars Loaded	453,137	I	9,009	2.0	I	5,517	1.2
Corresponding week of 1987	444,128						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (49 weeks)	20,957,741	20,104,836	I 4.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
48 weeks ended December 3	924.2 r	872.0	I 6.0
Week ended December 10	20.0	19.7	I 1.7
49 Weeks cumulative	944.2	891.7	I 5.9

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